

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 597

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Elizabeth Lowenheim Jacobs of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Elizabeth Lowenheim Jacobs; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jacobs, a pioneering figure in Nashville's social services community, was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born Elizabeth Lowenheim on July 26, 1906, Ms. Jacobs attended Tarbox School and was a graduate of Hume-Fogg High School and Ward-Belmont College; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jacobs was introduced to social activism when, still in her early teens, she joined her mother in the march on the State Capitol for women's suffrage; and

WHEREAS, the mother of social services in Davidson County, Ms. Jacobs was the first woman to chair the Board of the United Way back when the agency was known as the Community Chest during the Great Depression; she later served as a founding Board Member and longtime Chairwoman of Metropolitan Social Services; and

WHEREAS, her visionary leadership, remarkable ability, and irrepressible spirit led generations of mayors, congressional delegates, and local and state lawmakers to turn to her for guidance on matters of social welfare; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Jacobs was an active and lifelong member of Congregation Ohabai Sholom, for which her great-grandfather carved the cornerstone in 1851; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jacob's record of public service is truly remarkable and includes serving as Volunteer for Travelers Aid from 1940 to 1946 and later serving as President, Elected Life Member, and Regional Vice President of National Travelers Aid; President, Nashville Section, National Council of Jewish Women (1942-1944); Tennessee Commission of Displaced Persons at the Nashville School of Social Work (1947-1948); Board Member of Community Chest (1946-

1950); Chairman of the Women's Division of Nashville USO (1951-1952); Delegate to and Chairwoman of the Davidson County White House Conference on Children and Youth (1960); and Member of the Tennessee Commission on Standards for Child Caring and Child Placing Agencies from 1952 to 1955; and

WHEREAS, she also served as President of the Council of Community Services (1956-1959); Member of Davidson County Welfare Commission and Chairman (1956-1963); Participant to Institute of Urban Affairs, Washington, D.C., (1967); Member of Mayor's Committee on Housing and Urban Development (1970-1975); and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jacobs was a valued Member of the Tennessee Commission for Human Development (1971-1979); Board and Executive Committee, Mid Cumberland Council on Alcohol and Drugs (1968-1975); St. Thomas Hospital Cardiovascular Fund Board (1973); Task Force on Goals for Metro Nashville, and served as Chairman, Sub-Committee for Health and Well-Being (1974); Chairman, Metro Social Services Commission (1963-1979); Chairman, Metro Board of Health (1983-1984); Foreman, Davidson County Grand Jury (1980-1982, 83-84, and 88-91); and

WHEREAS, dedicated to serving the needs of her community in numerous capacities, she was also a Member of the Jewish Community Council and Executive Committee (1943-1946); Board Member of the Middle Tennessee Health Systems Agency (1974); Tennessee State Advisory Commission on Alcohol and Dependency (1974); St. Thomas Hospital Development Foundation Secretary (1978); Advisory Committee for J.B. Knowles Home for The Aged (1979-1984), and Richland Village (1979-1984); Advisory Committee for Robert Wood Johnson; CARES at Meharry Hospital; Alcohol and Drug Council of Middle TN; Advisory Committee on Aging to Davidson County Delegation, Tennessee General Assembly (1976); Committee on Services to Elderly, Jewish Federation (1975-1986); Leadership, Nashville Board of Trustees (1976-1989); Jewish Federation Community Relations (1986-1987); Century III, Union Station Advisory Committee (1978); Board of National Conference of Christians and Jews (1981-1984); Mayor's Task Force on Refugee Resettlement (1981-1984); Public Policy Committee Senior Citizens Inc., Chairman Jewish Federation Archives (1979); Board Council of Community Services (1983-1989); and Chairman of Council on Aging (1985-1986); and

WHEREAS, she was also a Member of The League of Women Voters, Tennessee Botanical Gardens, Fine Arts Center (Cheekwood), Nashville Symphony Association, Planned Parenthood Association, Nashville Section, National Council of Jewish Women, Common Cause, Committee for Nuclear Responsibility, United Nations Association, Children's Hospital, Tennessee Environment Council, Nashville Symphony Guild, Friends of TPAC, Tennessee State Museum, Nashville Ballet Society, Parthenon Patron, Historic Nashville, YWCA Long Range Planning, AARP Capitol Task Force, Metro Health and Education Facilities Commission, and Tennessee Association of Legal Services; and

WHEREAS, a grateful community has expressed its appreciation to Ms. Jacobs by awarding her several high honors, including the National USO Award for Voluntary Service in 1956; County Judges Award for Voluntary Services (1962); Citizenship Award, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (1968); Service Award for Voluntary Services, Mid-Cumberland Council on Alcohol and Drugs; Metro Social Services Board Resolution Award; Knowles Home Resolution; Richland Village Resolution; Metro Social Services Staff Resolution; Tennessee Commission for Human Development, Citizenship Award; National Association of Social Workers, Jefferson Award Finalist (1985); Mary Catherine Strobel Award (1993); Julia Hereford SAGA Award (1986); the Seton Society Award; and the Joe Kraft Award; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, she co-authored two books with Sandra Ivey, *Citizens in Crises* and *Crises in Later Years*; and

WHEREAS, even at the venerable age of 100 she was still reaching out to people in need, making gifts to justice-minded nonprofit organizations through the fund that she established at the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Jacobs was preceded in death by her parents, David and Tessie Blum Lowenheim; her husbands, Homer Alexander Jonas and Julius Jacobs; daughter, Suzanne Jonas Morris; grandchild, John Strupp; and stepson, Donald Jacobs; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by daughter, Betsy Jonas and her husband, Stan Chernau; son-in-law, Joel P. Morris; grandchildren and spouses, Kim Morris and Garry Heiman; Michael and Katie Chernau; Suzanne Chernau and Eric Pilsk; Dana Morris Strupp and Mark Goldie Shepard; Roger and Debbie Shepard; Philip and Toni Shepard; Betsy J. Rubenstein; Barbara J. and Jack Aland; Andy and Carmen Jacobs; Meg J. and Sam Flax; Tommy and Lindsey Jacobs;

Billy and Erica Jacobs; Elizabeth Jacobs; Pam J. and Andy Newmark; and step-children and spouses, Sylvia and Bobby Shephard; Marvin and Dottie Jacobs; and Kenneth and Ellen Jacobs; and

WHEREAS, she is also survived by her niece, Elizabeth Werthan, many great-nieces and nephews, cousins, devoted friends, and twenty-three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jacobs's steadfast commitment to her community, especially those struggling on its margins, is her legacy and her great and enduring gift to the people of this State; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Jacobs leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional social activist and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory Elizabeth Lowenheim Jacobs, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Warden.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.